

Docket No. 031948-6
Serial No. 10/760,295
Page 8

REMARKS

Filed concurrently herewith is a One Month Extension of Time which extends the shortened statutory period for response to July 20, 2006. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Official Action dated March 20, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, claims 1-4, 7-12 and 5-19 have been canceled in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein while claims 5, 6, 13 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form in order to better define that which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, claims 5, 6, 13 and 14 are presently pending in the instant application.

Initially, Applicants wish to acknowledge the Examiner's indication on page 11 of the Office Action that claims 5, 6, 13 and 14 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this regard, as can be seen from the foregoing amendments each of claims 5, 6, 13 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are now in proper condition for allowance.

Turning now to page 2 of the Office Action, the drawings have been objected to in that Fig. 3 does not include all the reference numerals referred to in the description of the figure in the specification as noted from page 7. In this regard, filed concurrently herewith is a Submission of Substitute Drawings wherein Fig. 3 has been amended to include reference numerals 2 and 4 as set forth on page 7 of Applicants' specification. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' several figures are now in proper formal condition for allowance.

10055018.1

Docket No. 031948-6

Serial No. 10/760,295

Page 9

With reference to paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 10, 11 and 15-19 have been objected to as including minor informalities. With the foregoing amendments, each of claims 10, 11 and 15-19 have been canceled in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been overcome and further discussion with respect thereto is no longer believed to be warranted.

With reference to paragraph 6 of the Office Action, claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,389,584 issued to Kitahara. Again, with the foregoing amendments, each of claims 1-4 have been canceled and consequently further discussion with respect to the merits of the rejection of claims 1-4 is no longer believed to be warranted.

With respect to the rejections set forth on pages 6-11, claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara as applied to claim 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0195629 issued to Lai et al. Additionally, claims 9-12 and 15-19 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara in view of Lai et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed in that with the cancellation of claims 7-12 and 15-19 in favor of the rewriting of claims 5, 6, 13 and 14 in independent form, the rejection is no longer applicable and further discussion with respect to the merits of this rejection is no longer believed to be warranted.

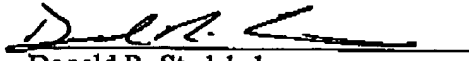
Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the objections and rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 5, 6, 13 and 14 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

10055018.1

Docket No. 031948-6
Serial No. 10/760,295
Page 10

Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,


Donald R. Studebaker
Reg. No. 32,815

Nixon Peabody LLP
401 9th Street N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, D. C. 20004
(202) 585-8000